

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0184

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR AFIN UN XF MARR UR

SUBJ: SOVIET ACTIVITY ON UNEF FINANCING - BACKGROUND INFO

REF: USUN 183

1. IN LIGHT OF USSR PERREP MALIK'S INITIATIVE FOR STANDARDIZED SCALE OF REIMBURSEMENT FOR ALL UNEF CONTINGENTS (REFTEL), FOLLOWING SUMMARY OF CRITERIA WHICH UN NOW USES IN PAYING GOVTS FOR TROOP AND EQUIPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS MAY BE OF INTEREST.
2. MAIN CRITERIA FOR REIMBURSEMENT ARE, BRIEFLY, AS FOLLOWS:
 - A) GOVTS ARE REIMBURSED SALARY OF TROOPS IF, BUT ONLY IF, TROOPS ARE NOT PART OF STANDING ARMY BUT HAVE TO BE RECRUITED SPECIALLY FOR PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS. (THIS IS TRUE OF MOST SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES BUT NOT OF MOST OTHER CONTRIBUTING GOVTS.)
 - B) ASIDE FROM REIMBURSEMENT OF IRREGULARS' SALARIES AS ABOVE, MAIN OTHER CRITERION IS OVERSEAS ALLOWANCES WHICH A GOVT BY LAW PAYS IT SOLDIERS FOR SERVIE ABROAD. UNFAIRNESS OF THIS OF COURSE IS THAT SOME GOVTS PAY HIGH OVERSEAS ALLOWANCES AND LOW BASIC SALARIES , WHILE SOME DO THE REVERSE -- BUT REIMBURSEMENT IS BASED ON ALLOWANCES ONLY, NOT SALARIES.
3. THESE CRITERIA ARE CLEARLY INEQUITABLE AND COMPLETELY UN-STANDARDIZED. ONE REASON FOR THIS IS THAT UN HAS PURPOSELY KEPT REIMBURSEMENT CIRTERIA VAGUE - AND TO EXTENT POSSIBLE SECRET - IN ORDER TO PREVENT EACH CONTRIBUTING GOVT FROM

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DEMANDING SAME SCALE AS HIGHEST PAID CONTINGENT. IN PRIOR

UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS PAYMENTS HAVE VARIED FROM LOW OF
\$50 PER MAN PER MONTH (INDIA) TO AROUND \$850 (SWEDEN).
4. IN FIFTH COMITE AT 28TH UNGA, SOVS PROPOSED THAT SYG
"SHOULD TRY TO EFFECT MAXIMUM POSSIBLE REDUCTION IN
DIVERGENCIES BETWEEN REIMBURSEMENTS MADE TO GOVERNMENTS
MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF REIMBURSEMENT TO GOVTS FOR SUCH COST SHOULD
NOT EXCEED \$250 MONTHLY PER CAPITA." COUNTER PROPOSAL
SUBMITTED BY GHANA AND OTHERS, WHICH SUBSEQUENTLY ADOPTED BY
GA PLENARY UNDER AGENDA ITEM 109, REQUESTED SYG "TO STUDY
POSSIBILITY OF STANDARDIZING COST AND DETERMINING A CEILING ...
WITH AIM OF REDUCTING WIDE DISCREPANCIES." SYG HAS BEGUN
PREPARATION OF REPORT ON THIS QUESTION FOR 29TH GA.
SCALI

NOTE BY OC/T: LIMDIS CAPTION ADDED PER S/S-O, MR. HALE.

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